

UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A 5266  
22 October 1962  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Seventeenth session

MINUTE OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION, 1962 FROM THE SEVENTEENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE  
MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HELD AT THE HOLLANDY-BUILDING

In accordance with the express instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I have the honor to bring to your attention the following facts and comments:

In recent weeks, there have been various attacks on Cuban territory which have been typical acts of international piracy.

On 12 May, a pirate boat attacked a Cuban Government patrol boat, killing three sailors and wounding eight. According to a UN cable, dated 31 August 1962, José Manuel Caballero, the leader of the summer-revolutionary student movement and the co-ordinator of the naval attack, introduced Leslie Witrage, the captain of the pirate boat, and Isidro Borja, who sent the ship, at a meeting of journalists in Miami. This meeting had originally been banned by the police authorities but was held when the Revolutionary Student Directorate received assurances "that its members would not be molested".

During the night of 24 August, Dr. Fidel Castro, the Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government, announced: "At 11.30 p.m. yesterday, the sea front of the town of Havana was attacked by armed ships, which fired numerous bursts of 21-calibre gun-fire. This treacherous surprise attack shows the cowardice, the criminal and piratical spirit of its authors, the Government of the United States and the mercenary agents recruited by it, who operate with impunity from the coast of Florida, trampling under foot the most elementary principles of international law. We hold the United States Government responsible for this new and cowardly attack on our country."

At 2.50 a.m. on 10 September 1962, at Cayo Francés, sixteen miles from Cárdenas, a pirate boat attacked the 350-foot gunboat "San Pascual", used

to secure molasses, and the freighter "Newland", flying the British flag, which was placed by and was coming to load 1,000 tons of sugar for the United Kingdom.

The American Press agencies of 11 and 12 reported from Miami, United States, that "some members of the anti-Soviet organization known as Alpha 66 said that five members of the organization had carried out an attack on two freighters of the northern coast of Cuba". They added that the headquarters of the organization was in Puerto Rico and the special work of Alpha 66 was to help, from 60, in the port of Bahiaría. The "Washington Post", from New York, says that "the British ship 'Newland', which was loading sugar for the Government authorities at Bay of Pines was heavily machine-gunned by the Alpha 66".

At 8 a.m. on 12 October 1962 a pirate boat fired several shots at 30-mile radius-range of 100 meters carrying a number of Cuban citizens, near Santa Clara, close to the town of Cardenas. The victims were wounded in the chest and kidnapped by the pirates, who took them first to the British possession of Caye Sol and then illegally into United States territory. This was a case of great kidnapping and a violation of Cuban territorial waters, in which the United States was obviously implicated, since it gave refuge and protection to the actual pirates; it was also implicated in the kidnapping of the wounded Cubans, who were subjected by the State to great pressure on the United States authorities in Florida, who tried to make it appear that they were both asking for asylum, whereas those who were responsible for the attack were encouraged and given every protection.

All these acts amount to hundreds of violations of Cuban air space and Cuban waters by aircraft attacking freighters coming for our ports through our territorial waters which have been denounced by Cuba since 1 July of this year through the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

On 27 August, The New York Times reported that two United States airmen, William Johnson and Frank Swanner, had carried out exploratory flights over Havana before the attack on Friday, 24 August, in order to locate the target. This fits in with the fact that United States ships are spying on the Cuban coast - the ship "Inchford", for instance, which is permanently stationed within sight of Havana for the purpose of letting the small boat know when they can approach with impunity, and boats are stationed just inside our territorial waters in order to protect the attackers when they withdraw.

These acts of international piracy are being carried out in a manner calculated to bear heavily on the commerce of the United States and to cause the loss of valuable shipping to Cuba. It is no secret that the United States has a long and bitter history at the very time that this evidence is being developed, and that it has been unable to and protect this policy of blockade runner, the same illegal trade has been taking place. The presence of such activities as an embargoed threat to the safety of official measures adopted by the United States Government. For example, the newspaper Journal of Commerce, a well known and influential publication of maritime commercial shipping with Cuba, said in its issue of 17 October 1971 that "If they persist, at their own risk, they may expect reprisals either immediately or later".

Upon their return to the United States, the two members of this group of piracy said that "they are prepared to accept death" and that "they will carry out a full-scale operation". FBI New York City, which has been called into "high alert" announced that it "was alerting" against all ships carrying goods to Cuba; "The United States will be alerted that the 'Herring', a vessel flying the British flag, which was British-registered and the crew was from various countries, was subjected to intensive examination. The United States Coast Guard agencies have released statements that in New York City, a United States citizen, by means of a telephone call, reported that a ship, which was said to be carrying goods to Cuba, would be used in attacks on non-Communist countries as well. It is well-known fact that the Press, radio, and television of the United States have not only published the statements of the perpetrators of these acts of international piracy but have also indicated these villainous acts. However, the concerned criminals have boasted that their acts were carried out from a base in United States territory from which they set out and at which they returned with complete impunity. Suffice it to recall that the leaders of the counter-revolutionary organization which calls itself Alpha 66 stated in Miami, according to the Associated Press, that they fired "heavy rounds from 1.5 inch guns, two batteries at the base of the projectile, a missile which used during the Second World War by automatic anti-aircraft guns, and most of them were traced, called back, and a luminous trail".

har

A/5266  
English  
Page 4

The same agency rejected the statement made in Miami by a counter-revolutionary organization that "it is ready to strike again". A cable from the Associated Press, sent from Caracas on 3 September 1961, reported that a representative of the so-called Student Revolutionary Directorate declared that this counter-revolutionary organization "will strike any day and in any form in the revolutionary process".

The Government of Cuba, similarly, does not see a counter-revolutionary movement arising with a better legitimacy and with the approval and participation of the United States and America, one that has not arrived out of international policy, all its efforts are directed against the United States and against Cuba, and the United States and America against Cuba, having done so, as a result, and the result of the United States and Cuba people into revolution having failed, the Government of the United States is now in a position to report to the United States people and the United States people the situation in violating basic principles of the United States and the international community. The Government of the United States has now decided to report to the international community that it is supporting not only the basically aggressive behavior of the United States but also the most profound and deep for international law, as shown by the direct violation of the universal recognized principle of freedom of the seas and the peaceful conduct of trade.

On 15 August 1961, a cable from Miami reported that on instructions from the State Department the Coast Guard had impounded, at Marathon Key, the two vessels used in the snuffing of the ships in the Miramar suburb. When they were informed that the vessels had been impounded by the Government, spokesmen for the counter-revolutionaries said: "We have no comment, but we hope they will be returned to us with all the equipment in working order". The speakers who carried out the piratical action of 16 September 1961 said that it was accomplished without radar or radio "and with rockets which did not work".

All these statements were made in the United States.

The New York Times of 13 September 1961, pointed out that "if the United States wants to stop these large-scale adventures, it can expect certainly to do so by telling the responsible leaders of the Cuban exile that they must stop them. This should be done openly".

According to a cable from the Associated Press dated 25 August 1961, the United States State Department stated that "in all probability the Cuban Student Revolutionary Directorate led the raid by sea against Havana last night from Miami. In relatively gentle terms, the Department warned the anti-Castro Cuban exiles that they could be prosecuted for violation of neutrality laws if they did it again. The law prohibits the launching of a military expedition against countries which are not at war with the United States. The Department of Justice is investigating whether there is any ground for taking action against the organizers of, and participants in, the attack."

Despite all the evidence, the United States authorities did not fail to use on these occasions the same criminal terms as preceded the military aggression at Playa Girón in 17 April 1961. In fact, on the morning of 18 April United States aircraft landing at United States airports and using United States army landed several Cuban bombs as a prelude to the invasion by massed troops, planned, organized and financed by the United States Government, as was publicly admitted some days afterwards by President John F. Kennedy himself. On that occasion Adlai Stevenson, the United States representative to the United Nations, stated that these had been aircraft of the Cuban Air Force which had rebelled against their own Government. Now, in connection with the pirate attacks we are investigating, the same gross mixing is repeated. Thus a 17 cable of 18 August 1961 reported in connection with the attack on areas near Havana that "United States officials hinted privately that elements of the Cuban Navy might have been responsible and not the anti-Castro revolutionary group which claimed credit for the deed".

It was added that "investigations have shown that no ship belonging to the Cuban exiles capable of such a mission has left United States waters recently". In addition to that lie the agency in question barely added that "the possibility that was not rejected at the start by United States officials is that the Cuban army, which is alleged to be holding manoeuvres in the area of Havana, pointed its guns at the hotel in which communist technicians were lodging and at other buildings. According to these speculations the Cuban marines could have fired by mistake, could have been deceived or could have fired on Castro's orders so that he could accuse the United States of aggression".

A 5038  
Encl.  
Ref

A cable of the same date of the Associated Press Agency carried the statement of the United States Ambassador that "although he had no personal knowledge of any person responsible for previous armed attacks on this country, 'it seems probable' that such persons 'planned and executed' such North American territory".

The very day Mr. Egan, spokesman of the State Department in Washington, said that "there is still no word about the group of Cubans who call themselves ALU's". He said, however, in "that they had launched out the attack upon a base somewhere in the Caribbean". He said that "Apparently the Department of Justice was awaiting the verdict". After the attack on the island in Miramar on 14 August 1961 the State Department charged that "these type of attack did not really harm the American Republics in Cuba and they also in no way disturbed the deep feelings by which the Cuban people was united and their loyalty to the regime in their country. It could not appear of a group of United States territory as a basis for such action". He also later the State Department reported that it had "evidence that the Anti-Cuban Cuban Revolutionary Directorate was responsible for last of the attacks on the San Juan of Havana". The Department of Justice answered that in the "Harrassing manner the United States authorities had been violated as a result of this attack". The report is that the private ships were turned to United States authorities.

The position of the United States Government to this conclusive evidence has all along been evasive and partial.

However, an act of piracy was reserved it was replied that the policy of the United States was to disapprove of the use of United States territory as a base for armed action against Cuba. Coming out of the aggression of 14 September 1961, a cable of the U.S.A.I. Agency from Washington dated 14 September reported that the Department of State had restated its policy of opposing the use of United States territory by groups of Cuban exiles for launching attacks against Cuba.

"The New York Times" of 11 October 1961 exhorted the United States Government to prohibit the preparation of expeditions against countries with whom the United States was at peace. It added that violent reaction might be expected abroad if it appeared that exiles based on the United States were in fact trying

to sink ships carrying out peaceful trade with Cuba, and that the United States Government should prevent that unlawful and dangerous action by the Cuban exiles - with whose cause, however, the newspaper declared itself in complete sympathy. The "Daily News" stated that although the bombing of Havana was organized from the United States, no proceedings were planned against the adventurers who had violated the United States Neutrality Act.

Nothing could be more flagrant than the complicity of the United States Government in these international crimes committed by persons who assemble in American territory, perpetrate aggression with American arms and weapons, and return to American territory to announce publicly their acts of vandalism. By way of camouflage the pirates have been "warned" that they "may be tried" for breaches of American law "if repeated". This is a public announcement of impunity for the criminal, who is not punished but "warned", and then only if the offense is "repeated". This means that the law forbidding the crime requires as one of its ingredients that it shall be repeated - not to mention the fact that since these official announcements these crimes have been repeated and no action has been taken. On the contrary, speaking of these attacks which the United States Government itself encourages and abets, the White House press secretary Lincoln White stated on 13 October 1961 that the United States had informed Great Britain that it could not guarantee the safety of British shipping in the Caribbean against armed attacks by anti-Castro Cuban exiles. He said that such attacks are not approved by the United States Government and that the United States could not take any responsibility for acts committed by Cuban exiles sailing from ports not under its national jurisdiction. He added, that although the American coastguard and immigration services have plans for preventing incidents against Cuba, the United States has two thousand kilometres of coast to patrol; that there are in the Florida area many thousands of pleasure boats; and that there is no absolute safeguard against the occurrence of any incident. In commenting on the crime of piracy recorded in this document, the United States Government not only abets, encourages and screens them, but in so doing tolerates a crime punishable by its own law; violates Cuban territorial waters and air space; offends against the law of the high seas and outrages the principle of the freedom of the seas; protects those who commit crimes in its territorial waters;